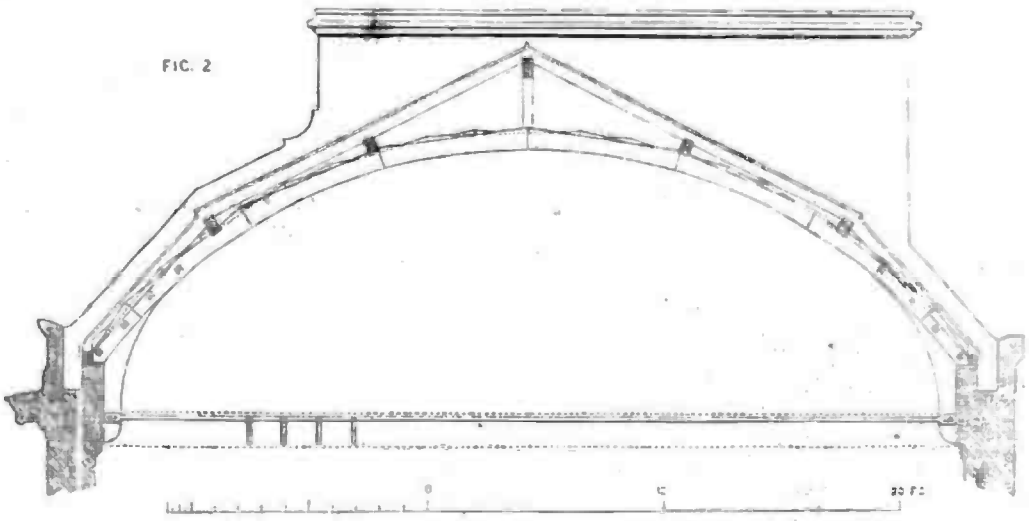
STREET ARCHITECTURE.—ELEVATION OF BUILDING ERECTED IN QUEEN-STREET, GLASGOW.

Mr. JAMES WYLSON, Architect.

ROOF.

FIG. 2



that the core, in casting, might bend so much out of its proper concentric place in the mould, as to turn almost the entire substance of the metal to one side, and leave little more than a mere scale at the other. I had observed this in some of the broken columns already referred to, and on mentioning the subject lately to a founder, was told by him of a case wherein some of the iron columns of a large granary gave way, fortunately during the erection of the building, and thus led in time to a discovery of the nature of their deficiency: in this case the contractor was bound responsible for the stability of the building for a year after its completion; and there is no saying how disastrous might have been the result had these columns stood good until the building was heavily loaded with grain.

Having arranged for the vaults above-mentioned being paved with asphalte, which is a very disadvantageous material to have to break open to get at pipes or drains, I preserved the access to these, in their various ramifications, by means of stone curbs set in flush on either side, with flagging introduced between them. In regard to asphalte, it is known that much of the material used is nothing but coal tar; and as there are variations in quality, from that

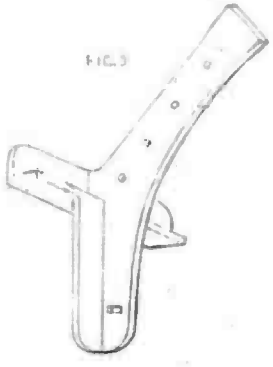


FIG. 3

which softens with in-door warmth until casks and table feet make deep impressions in it, or under the influence of the summer sun becomes adhesive under-foot to the toiling pedestrian, to that other extreme which comes off in black dust, ready for conversion by moisture into a dirty mud, it appears to me that the cause of these opposing conditions lies in the under or over-boiling of the aforesaid coal-tar. We know that in preparing tar for use as a protective coating to wood-work, &c., it takes some three or four hours' boiling to "pitch" it; and that if it is too much boiled it loses its elastic quality, and becomes crusted and perfectly effete. Here appears the risk in regard to the so-called "asphalte;" what with the admixture with the other ingredients, the partial emptying of the boilers, and the cooling of the residue in them at the completion of one job, and the reheating, or making up, of the same at the commencement of another, the due amount of boiling seems liable not to be attended to. The blocks of "asphalte" which are prepared at manufactories for the purposes of paving, are generally too much impoverished: in the first place, a black varnish is obtained from the tar, which is used by boiler-makers and others; and the tar is then subjected to a process of distillation, in order to separate the spirit or naphtha; the residue is then boiled up again with an admixtore of ground chalk, and formed into blocks, and this, as far as I am aware, completes its preparation as an article of commerce. It appears, therefore, that in using

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